

Orange teens win \$2,000 for business

ORANGE - Two teens who participated in the Young Entrepreneurs Society's pilot CoopBizTeam program last spring, recently learned that their business plan for "Cross Road Café" won a national competition.

YES alumna Floris Fortier, 18, and a fellow participant who is 14, received a check for \$2,000 from the National 4-H Council.

The goal of the competition was to encourage young people to learn about cooperatives and business planning by working in partnership with adults in their community.

Underwritten by the Rural Business Cooperative Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the competition drew entries from 25 applicant teams nationwide.

Twenty Pioneer Valley business owners assisted the BizTeam in developing their plan during the 140-hour program.

The project was supported by the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Amherst Public Service Endowment and School of Public Health, Community Coalition for Teens, Icarus Foundation, Greenfield AmeriCorps Program, and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.